

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment, claims 27-53 are currently pending. Claims 51-53 stand objected to and claims 27-50 stand rejected. Claims 27, 31, 34, 36, 47 and 51-53 are amended, new claims 54-90 are added, and claims 49-50 are cancelled with respect to filing a continuing application. Specifically, claims 27, 31, 34, 36, and 47 are amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 50 is cancelled without prejudice to filing the continuing application.

Claims 27-48 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,646,954. While Applicants do not agree with this rejection, Applicants are nevertheless contemporaneously submitting a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), disclaiming the terminal part of this application that extends beyond the expiration date of claims 1-20 of commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,646,954 to obviate the double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the obvious type-double patenting rejection is overcome.

Claims 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Santoro et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,570,319 ("*Santoro*"). Claims 49-50 are canceled without prejudice to filing a continuing application.

Claims 51-53 stand objected to, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 51-53 are written in independent form as suggested by the examiner, and are believed allowable therefore. New dependent claims 54-61, 62-69 and 70-78, depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claims 51, 52 and 53 respectively and are believed allowable for all the reasons provided above. Further, new claims 79-80, 81-84, 85-88 and 89-90 depend from allowable claims 27, 42, 46 and 47 respectively, and are believed allowable for all the reasons provided above.

Serial No. 10/712,383

Art Unit: 2818

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. Applicants request that the present case pass to allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: June 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy L. Harney', is written over a horizontal line.

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